

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

AUTUMN EXAMINATION 1999

BACHELOR OF NURSING DEGREE

RESEARCH METHODS II (NU417)

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You are expected to answer a total of TWO (2) questions. Use a separate answer book for each question. All questions are worth 100 marks, the breakdown of marks is indicated in brackets.

You are allowed to use a calculator. Please note you are expected to support your answers by referring to relevant literature and examples from research studies where appropriate.

Time allowed: One (1) hour

BND 6 - RESEARCH METHODS II (NU 417)

1. (a) Describe the purpose and structure of experimental design (50 marks)
(b) Indicate the strengths and weaknesses of experimental design. (50 marks)
2. Choose one example of a qualitative research design and outline its key characteristics. (100 marks)
3. (a) Describe the benefits of, and constraints to, research implementation in nursing practice. (60 marks)
(b) In your answer suggest ways of overcoming the barriers you identify. (40 marks)
4. Action research has been described as a way of changing and improving practice (Smith, 1997), but is it really research? Debate. (100 marks)

5. A researcher decided to investigate whether there were any age differences between students who had decided to take on a course in health promotion full time and those who were studying the same course part time. Below are the ages of the students in each group.

Group 1: (Full Time Students) 31 35 36 38 39 39 41 42 43 44 45

Group 2: (Part Time Students) 16 35 37 39 41 44 44 44 45 45 47

- a) What type of data is this?
- b) Calculate the mean, mode and median ages for **Group 1**. (Show how you calculate these).
- c) Which of b) is most appropriate for **Group 1**?
- d) What measure of dispersion is most appropriate for **Group 1**?
- e) Calculate the mean, mode and median for group 2. (Show how you calculate these).
- f) Which of e) is most appropriate for **Group 2**?
- g) What measure of dispersion is most appropriate for **Group 2**?
- h) What statistical test would you use to compare the mean ages of these two groups of students?
- i) If you found that there was a significant difference at the .05 level, what would this mean?

(100 marks)